# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CIVIL AVIATION
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4175
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2000
AIR SERVICES IN HIMACHAL PRADESH
SURESH CHANDEL

**Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to expand air services in Bhunter of Kullu district and Gagal of Kangradistrict and to construct an airport at Bilaspur district headquarters with a view to promote tourism in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a team of officers had conducted a survey in this regard and submitted a report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon alongwith the present status of the project?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION

(SHRI SHARAD YADAV)
(a) & (b):- At present only 18 seater aircraft are operating to Bhunter of Kullu district and Gaggal of Kangra district. There is a proposal from the State Government for development of Gaggal and Bhunter airports and for construction of a new airport at Bilaspur.

(c):- Yes, Sir.

(d) & (e):- The team has concluded that the construction of a new airport at Bilaspur will require intense cutting and filling work. On account of prohibitive cost and operational hazards due to existence of high hills around the proposed site, the proposal has been found to be unviable. As regards development o f existing Gaggal and Bhunter airports, funds have been allocated t o State Government by Tenth Finance Commission and Airports Authority of India (AAI) will execute these works as deposit worksfor the State Government, based on the Memorandum of Understandingto be signed between AAIand the State Government of Himachal Pradesh.